THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

OFFICERS

OF THE

RETREAT FOR THE INSANE,

AT

HARTFORD, CONN.

APRIL, 1849.

HARTFORD:
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1849.

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OFFICERS

OF THE

RETREAT FOR THE INSANE,

For 1849.

Rt. Rev. THOMAS C. BROWNELL, *President.*
DAVID WATKINSON, *Vice President.*
WILLIAM T. LEE, *Treasurer.*
THOMAS BELKNAP, *Auditor.*
CHARLES SHELDON, *Secretary.*

Vice Presidents for Life, by Subscription of $200 *and upwards.*

*OLIVER WOLCOTT,
SAMUEL TUDOR,
DAVID WATKINSON,
WILLIAM H. IMLAY,
THOMAS S. WILLIAMS,
HENRY L. ELLSWORTH,
CHARLES SIGOURNEY,
*GEORGE GOODWIN,
*CHAUNCEY DEMING,
*WILLIAM ROBINSON,
*ELIAS PERKINS,
*JOSEPH BATTELL,
*JOSHUA STOW,
*ELIJAH THOMPSON,

Directors for Life, by Subscription of $100.

*DANIEL WADSWORTH,
WARD WOODBRIDGE,
ROBERT WATKINSON,
*ELISHA SHEPARD,
JAMES H. WELLS,
DANIEL BUCK,
*HENRY HUDSON,
*DAVID PORTER,
REUBEN LANGDON,
*OLIVER D. COOKE,
WM. W. ELLSWORTH,
*HENRY SEYMOUR,
*ELIPHALET AVERILL,
*EDWARD WATKINSON,
*GEORGE SMITH,
*ASAHEL HATHAWAY, Jr.
*NEHEMIAH HUBBARD,
*ABIGAIL HUBBARD,
*OBADIAH BROWN.

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* Deceased.

Directors chosen at the Annual Meeting.

THOMAS ROBBINS,
JAMES WARD,
JOSEPH TRUMBULL,
GEORGE SUMNER,
THOMAS H. GALLAUDET,
CHARLES SHELDON,
THOMAS C. PERKINS,
JOHN OLMSTED,
CYPRIAN NICHOLS,
THOMAS DAY,
WILLIAM T. LEE,
AMOS M. COLLINS,
NATHAN JOHNSON,
ALFRED SMITH,
JOHN S. BUTLER,
EZRA CLARK,
ISAAC TOUCEY,
THOMAS BELKNAP,
CALVIN DAY,
CHARLES GOODWIN.

State Commissioners.

His Excellency the Governor of the State,
Hon. ROGER S. BALDWIN,
Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY.

Medical Visitors.

GEORGE SUMNER, M. D.
N. B. IVES, M. D.
BENJ. ROGERS, M. D.
E. K. HUNT, M. D.
H. A. GRANT, M. D.
RICHARD WARNER, M. D.

Managers.

AMOS M. COLLINS,
CHARLES SHELDON,
WM. T. LEE.

Visiting Committee of Ladies.

Mrs. R. WATKINSON,
Mrs. CHARLES SHELDON,
Mrs. WILLIAM T. LEE,
Mrs. HENRY HUDSON,
Mrs. ELI TODD,
Mrs. AMOS M. COLLINS.

JOHN S. BUTLER, M. D. *Physician and Superintendent.*
Rev. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, *Chaplain.*
S. W, HART, *Assistant Physician.*
Mr. VIRGIL CORNISH, *Steward.*
Mrs. M. H. CORNISH, *Matron.*

REPORT OF THE MANAGERS.

To the Directors of the Retreat for the Insane, the Managers respectfully Report:

THAT the past has been a year of continued prosperity to this Institution. Its benefits have been extended to a larger number of patients than in any previous year. Unusual success has attended the Superintendent and his associates, in their labors to mitigate the evils of insanity, and to restore to themselves and their friends, that unfortunate class we are all anxious to benefit. Their success also in securing quiet, neatness, order, and regularity, at all times, throughout the various departments of the Institution, demands of us continued confidence in their ability and zeal to promote its best interests, and should induce us to afford them all the facilities in our power, for the attainment of that end, by making such improvements in and about the Establishment, as a wise policy may, from time to time, suggest. With this view, the Managers have, the past year, made a few alterations and additions.

They have substituted folding doors for a partition wall between the dining hall and parlour in the centre building, now furnishing a pleasant and convenient hall for lectures, and social gatherings. They have also secured, with but little additional expense to former outlays, as they believe, an ample supply of water for daily use, and for extinguishing fires in case of emergency, by placing water tanks in the several attics, not

before supplied, and by connecting the reservoirs, by means of syphons, with each other, and with the forcing pumps. They have made the water of the best well, which is located at some distance, accessible to the patients of both wings, within the walls of the building and in situations convenient to the several halls.

They have also improved the yards, by the erection of a summer house in each, six in all. They have, as directed by your recent vote, purchased the farm of fifty acres which we rented the last year, and which will secure to the Institution sufficient land for tillage and pasturage, and afford those patients who need the exercise, the opportunity, not only to till the grounds as heretofore, but will also give them the privilege of cultivating their tastes, and be the means of stimulating their mental powers, while making such permanent improvements to the soil, fences, and general appearance of the place, under the direction of the steward, as shall add to its value, and make it a profitable and pleasant appendage to the Institution.

These additional grounds will, we think, meet the future wants of the Retreat, or rather, its future wants will make them indispensable. That a larger portion of the about 600 insane persons, in this State, are to enjoy its benefits than are now reached, can hardly but be believed by those who see what is doing in other States to provide Hospital accommodations for this class of the unfortunate.

While, therefore, we make no needless outlay, our true policy doubtless is, so to arrange for the future, as to be able to meet the necessity of larger accommodations to some extent than we now have, which necessity is sure to be seen and felt so soon as the public mind becomes thoroughly awake on this subject. We confidently believe the helping hand of our State Government may be relied on to furnish the means necessary to meet such necessity. The aid now furnished from

this source *indirectly*, is of great service to the Institution, and is the means of extending its benefits to many, who, on account of their poverty, would otherwise be debarred.

The Treasurer's account shows our pecuniary situation is in a satisfactory condition, and that the current receipts, although nothing more, cover all expenses.

The bequest of Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman, relict of the late Hon. Roger M. Sherman deceased, amounting to $4000, has recently been received and invested in Hartford and Phœnix Bank Stocks, to be kept, as directed by the will of the donor, a perpetual fund, the income of which is to be used in defraying the expenses, at the Retreat, of two of her or his own family connections, should such need its benefits; and if not, of such other persons as may be designated; the town of Fairfield, the late residence of the deceased, having the preference.

This generous act of liberality deserves a passing notice. Here a use is made of money which every one must approve. Insanity brings with it entire dependence on others, and in a large portion of cases, is connected with poverty. How wise then the forecast which provides the best remedies for what may happen to family relations, and is sure to be found where benevolence can gratify itself, in mitigating and relieving this form of suffering. How much wiser thus to erect monuments, and embalm memories in human hearts, with bequeathed estates, than to expend them in costly cemeteries, and marble colums. Why may we not expect, since ours is not a State Institution, but is strictly the offspring of charity, that others, prompted by this example, may "go and do likewise?" If Medical Hospitals receive their tens, and scores of thousands, as the last gift of the charitable and good, may we not hope that our efficiency for good may be greatly increased hereafter in this way, and thus a much larger portion of the insane poor of this State than heretofore, find a home in the Retreat, to the

great relief of their friends, and where they shall have comparative comfort, even when recovery is impossible.

While thankful for the smiles of a kind Providence on our labor the past year, the Managers, in common with the Directors, are solemnly admonished, by the sudden departure from this life, during this brief period, of two of our respected associates* in these labors, that "the time is short," and that what we purpose to do for the good of others must, if done by us, be soon accomplished.

In behalf of the Managers,

A. M. COLLINS, Chairman.

Hartford, April, 2, 1849.

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* Isaac D. Bull and Roderick Terry, Esquires.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Dr. *Retreat for the Insane in Account with* William T. Lee, *Treasurer.* Cr.

1849.			1848.		
March 31,	To Cash paid orders of A. M. Collins, Esq. Chairman of Managers, ...	$24,322 74	April 1,	By Balance from old account, ...	$201 73
"	" Balance to new account, ...	277 47	1849. March 31,	" Am't rec'd for interest and dividends,	612 00
			"	" Cash rec'd on ac't of Sherman Fund, .	88 00
			"	" Cash rec'd for articles sold by Steward,	153 86
			"	" Cash rec'd for support of patients, .	23,544 62
		$24,600 21			$24,600 21
			1849. April 2,	By Cash from old account, ...	$277 47

Examined and found Correct.

T. BELKNAP, *Auditor.*

Hartford, April 2d, 1849.
WILLIAM T. LEE, *Treas.*

Abstract of Expenditures on account of the Retreat for the Insane, from April 1, 1848, *to April* 1, 1849.

Meat and fish,	$2,404 36
Bread stuffs,	1,929 41
Butter and cheese,	1,513 70
Groceries, fruit, eggs, and milk,	1,501 74
Furniture and bedding,	1,337 23
Wood, coal, and lights,	1,484 09
Repairs and Improvements,	2,188 22
Clothing for patients, to be repaid,	1,339 32
Medicine, wine, porter &c.	540 91
Feed, straw, and vegetables,	523 45
Wages of attendants, domestics, and farm labor,	4,035 36
Advance payments refunded,	255 61
Printing,	99 07
Stock, *cows and horses*,	544 00
Rent of farm and taxes,	347 41
Medical books, rebinding books, &c.	62 45
Incidentals, paid by Steward,	53 92
Sundry bills paid by Managers,	211 74
Salaries,	3,815 00
Insurance,	216 00
Rent of the Potter lot,	180 00
	$24,582 99

Amount of orders drawn on the Treasurer from April 1, 1848, to April 1, 1849,	$24,322 74	
Due from the Steward, April 1, 1848,	49 90	
	$24,272 84	
Amount due the Steward this date,	310 15	
		$24,582 99

HARTFORD, April 2, 1849.

A. M. COLLINS,
Chairman of the Board of Managers.

THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT AND PHYSICIAN

OF THE

RETREAT FOR THE INSANE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1849.

To the Board of Directors of the Retreat for the Insane:

GENTLEMEN:

I respectfully submit to your consideration the Report of the progress and condition of the Retreat for the twenty-fifth year of its operation, together with such other suggestions as in the estimation of your superintendent are intimately connected with the successful attainment of the great object for which this Institution was founded.

To restore those afflicted with mania in its various forms to soundness of mind, to alleviate its ravages where restoration is impossible, to ensure kindly and sufficient care to those whom even hope has abandoned, as well as to check the progress of this malady, by diffusing a sound knowledge of the causes and methods of prevention; these are the high objects of that liberality and philanthropy which twenty-five years ago erected the Retreat.

The result of a quarter of a century shows how much has been accomplished.

If the cause of humanity demands greater and continued effort, the history of the past gives the most ample assurance that the same zeal and energy which has done so much is adequate to complete the task.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
The whole number of patients in the Retreat at the beginning of the year,	59	63	122
Admitted during the year, ...	49	84	133
Total number in the course of the year,	108	147	255
Of this number there have been discharged, Recovered, . . .	20	50	70
" Much improved, . .	4	6	10
" Improved, ...	4	9	13
" Not improved, . .	12	5	17
Died, ...	7	5	12
Total discharged during the year, .	47	75	122
Remaining in the Retreat April 1, 1849.	61	72	133
Whole number of patients admitted since April 1, 1824, ...			1897
Whole number discharged during same period, Recovered, . . . 1012			
Improved, &c. . . 597			
Died, ... 155			1764
Whole number remaining, . . .	61	72	133
			1897

TABLE I.

GENERAL STATISTICS,

FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

	1843–4	1844–5	1845–6	1846–7	1847–8	1848–9
Cases admitted, ...	80	105	128	111	93	133
Discharged and died, ...	86	85	115	109	89	122
Daily average number for the year,	84	97	121	127	127	141
Greatest No. in Retreat on any day,	111	105	132	144	143	153
Least " " "	78	82	103	116	116	122
Whole No. in Retreat during the y'r,	169	188	231	227	211	255
Remaining at the end of the year,	83	103	116	118	122	133

The year commenced with 122 patients, which is the smallest number in the Retreat at any time during the year.

The largest number was 153; the average number for the year being 141.

There have been 133 admissions, which, with the 122 at the beginning of the year, make our whole number of residents 255.

The number of discharges compares precisely with the number with which we commenced the year, 122. Of those discharged, seventy were recovered; twenty-three, more or less improved; seventeen, not improved; and twelve have died.

The whole number of patients admitted, the daily average number, the greatest number on any one day, the whole number during the year, and the number of recovered, are larger than during any previous year.

Since the opening of the Retreat in April 1824, 1897 insane persons have been recovered, of whom 955, or only thirteen more than one half, have been females. 1764 have been discharged, of whom 1012, or fifty-seven and one third per cent. have recovered; and 155, or eight per cent, have died.

TABLE II.

MONTHLY ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES, AND DAILY AVERAGE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1848–9.

MONTH.	Admissions.			Discharges.			Average.		
	Males,	Females,	Total,	Males,	Females,	Total,	Males,	Females,	Total,
April, . .	5	7	12	4	1	5	59	66	125
May, . .	5	10	15	6	3	9	61	74	135
June, . .	3	5	8	3	6	9	59	74	133
July, . .	5	11	16	2	5	7	61	77	138
August, .	5	7	12	5	5	10	61	81	142
September,	2	7	9	3	10	13	61	84	145
October, .	3	7	10	1	4	5	60	81	141
November,	7	6	13	4	6	10	64	86	150
December,	2	5	7	4	7	11	65	84	149
January, .	5	8	13	4	3	7	64	83	147
February. .	4	2	6	3	7	10	66	82	148
March, . .	3	9	12	8	18	26	64	76	140
Total, . .	49	84	133	47	75	122			

Daily average for the year, 62 males, 79 females, total 141.

TABLE III.

MONTHLY ADMISSION OF PATIENTS FROM THE OPENING OF THE RETREAT, APRIL 1, 1824.

April,	Males,	69	Nov.	Males,	78	
	Females,	71—140		Females,	61—	139
May,	Males,	94	Dec.	Males,	69	
	Females,	96—190		Females,	58—	127
June,	Males,	92	Jan.	Males,	69	
	Females,	107—199		Females,	74—	143
July,	Males,	91	Feb.	Males,	66	
	Females.	109—200		Females,	42—	108
August,	Males,	90	March,	Males,	74	
	Females,	102—192		Females,	60—	134
Sept.	Males,	79	Total,	Males,	942	
	Females,	98—177		Females,	955—	1897
October,	Males,	71				
	Females,	77—148				

TABLE IV.

PROBABLE CAUSES OF DISEASE IN THE CASES ADMITTED THIS YEAR.

Undue bodily exertion,	11	Loss of sister,	1
Undue mental effort,	5	Loss of wife,	2
Ill health,	18	Disappointed affection,	3
Intemperance,	12	Masturbation,	6
Sickness of friends,	4	Erroneous education,	1
Loss of husband,	1	Religious excitement,	2
Domestic anxieties,	4	Slander,	1
Peplexity of business,	1	Remorse,	1
Loss of property,	1	Fear,	1
Blow on the head,	3	Jealousy,	1
Turn of life,	1	Puerperal,	1
Abuse of intem. husband,	2	Unknown,	48
Ill treatment of brother,	1		
Loss of parent,	1		133

TABLE V.

OCCUPATION.

	MALES.		FEMALES.
Farmers,	17	Farmers' wives,	12
Mechanics,	3	Laborers' "	3
Book-keepers,	2	Sea-captains' "	2
Sailors,	2	Merchants' "	2
Laborers,	3	Millers' "	2
Brick-maker,	1	Mechanics' "	7
Woolen-spinners,	2	Shoe-makers' "	2
Stereotyper,	1	Tavern keeper's wife,	1
Lawyers,	2	Clergyman's, "	1
Cabinet-maker,	1	Joiner's, "	1
Teacher,	1	Tailoresses,	2
Merchant,	1	Milliners,	3
Carpet-weaver,	1	Dress-maker,	1
Carriage painter,	1	Laundress,	1
Bank officer,	1	Factory-girls,	2
Physicians,	2	School-girls,	2
Harness-maker,	1	Teachers,	2
School-boy,	1	Domestic occupation,	34
Printer,	1	No occupation,	4
Paper-maker,	1		—
House-joiner,	1		84
No occupation,	3		
	—		
	49		

The increasing number of admissions from the State is a source of congratulation, as indicating an increase of interest and confidence in the Institution, and a more correct appreciation of the importance of the curative treatment of insanity and of its prompt application. There are, however, some considerations suggested by the preceeding tables of the Report, which excite other, and less grateful reflections.

Of 570 patients admitted from the State during the past five years, 334 have been recent cases, or 59 per cent; while 236, or 41 per cent, have been cases of from one to five year duration. Of this latter class very few recover. It consists mainly of those who have been neglected until their increasing violence or mischievousness, or some new interest or inconvenience, leads to their commitment,—or of those, who prema-

turely removed from the Retreat to undergo some experiment of false economy or empiricism at home, have there become, from such experiments, hopelessly insane. It should be stated in this connection, that, during the past year, about twenty-five applications for aid from the fund have been rejected by the commissioner from want of means; while, with our largest number, over thirty additional patients could have been received into the Retreat. It is evident, therefore, that the neglect of this class depends not alone upon pecuniary inability, but arises, also from ignorance of the magnitude of the error committed.

The number of patients sent from the different counties is no indication of the real number within their limits. At this time, when the condition and necessities of the insane are exciting an increasing interest in most sections of our country, and more ample means are being provided for their care, it becomes the citizens of Connecticut to be on their guard lest they be outdone in this work of benevolence, which they may well entertain a just pride that they were among the first to commence.

Various attempts have been made, at different times, to ascertain the number and condition of the insane in this State. In 1821 a committee of the Medical Society sent circulars for this purpose into every town. They received information from 70 out of 124 towns, in which there were stated to be 510 insane and idiotic. Another investigation was made by benevolent individuals in 1837. From the partial returns received, they estimated that the whole number of insane and idiotic in the State exceeded 900. In the following year, in consequence of a memorial addressed by these individuals to the Legislature, a committee was appointed by the Legislature to pursue the inquiry more thoroughly. They addressed circulars to the Selectmen of each town, to which returns were received from 118 out of 136 towns. By these it appeared that there were 707 insane and idiotic persons in the State.

Another effort, but without satisfactory results, was made, the following year, to ascertain the whole number, and also how many of the indigent would probably be sent to an Institution

were suitable means provided. It is evident, that the largest number was the result of the most careful examination, and is the nearest approximation to the truth, and that gives us 707 insane and idiotic poor in 1838.

Happily, we have the means afforded us of more nearly ascertaining the true extent of this calamity by means of the Reports of Committees of the Legislature of the neighboring State of Massachusetts, giving the results of a most careful examination into the whole number of the insane and idiotic in that State distinctively, and affording a ratio of the number of insane to the number of inhabitants, which gives us a basis upon which quite an accurate calculation may be founded.

The Committee appointed "To consider the whole subject of insanity," presented a highly interesting Report in January last to the Legislature which was then in session.

"After devoting much time in sessions of the Committee, and singly in their individual capacity, with an earnest desire to promote the best interest of a sorely afflicted portion of their fellow citizens, a portion increasing in number from year to year, and among which no individual is certain he may not at some period of his life be classed;" in order to ascertain the number and condition of the insane, circulars were sent to the municipal authorities of every town and city of the State, from some of which returns were not made until visited in person by members of the Committee. At length, returns were obtained from all the towns and cities except eight. These returns were sufficient to furnish a safe basis upon which to form an estimate of the number of the insane in those not returned.

The whole number in the State was thus found to be 1512, of whom 1156 are unable to furnish the pecuniary means of their support, and 219 are able. 1014 have been insane more than five years.

"The true number in the State is doubtless somewhat larger than this. The Committee have personal knowledge of insane persons not included in the returns received, owing in some cases to an unwillingness to rank as insane, persons who are insane, and in other cases to a want of information."

The per centage of Lunatics in the State is about two to one thousand persons. In the four western counties, the per cent-

age is about one and nine tenths to the thousand. In Worcester County it is about two to the thousand, and in the nine counties east of Worcester it is about two and one tenth to the thousand.

Satisfactory provision is made in the three Hospitals and two county Asylums for the accommodation of 853 patients, the precise number in these Asylums when visited. About sixty patients are accommodated at private Asylums, leaving 600 of the 1512 insane persons now in Mass. unprovided for in public or private Asylums, devoted to their interests. There are in the United States about thirty institutions for the insane, which can accommodate less than 7000 patients.

The number of Lunatics in the United States is variously estimated. It cannot be less than thirty thousand, of whom, it follows, that only 7000, or less than one fourth, are provided for.

In the same State, Commissioners were appointed in 1846, "to inquire into the condition of the idiots of the Commonwealth, to ascertain their number, and whether anything can be done in their behalf." This commission made a most able and interesting Report in 1848, presenting a fearful array of facts, which would appear incredible, but for the perfect demonstration of the correctness of their observations, and the soundness of their conclusions. Our present business is simply with the number. Failing to obtain satisfactory information by circulars, an agent was apointed to make the examination. The investigation shows the appalling fact that in the State of Mass. there are over 1200 *idiots;* "over 400 of whom," say the Commissioners, "have been minutely inspected by us personally, or by our agent upon whom we can rely."

We have, therefore, this conclusive evidence presented to us, that in this neighboring State, the character, position, and pursuits of whose inhabitants are closely assimilated to those of our own, there are over 2712 insane and idiotic persons.

The population of Massachusetts, by the census of 1840, was 737,699. The per centage of the insane and idiotic, therefore, is 3 5–10 to each thousand inhabitants. The same per centage will give 1050 as the number of insane or idiotic within this State, or about 600 of the former, and 400 of the latter

class. Of these 600 insane persons in this State, only 107 are now in the Retreat.

As insanity becomes chronic and incurable more speedily than almost any other disease, recent cases, unless restored, soon, pass beyond the reach of curative means. Most of the cases of insanity in this State are chronic. In Massachusetts 1000 out of 1612, were over five years duration. Of the 133 now in the Retreat not more than thirty-four are curable. Why is this accumulation of hopeless cases of a disease which we claim to be at least as curable as fever, under ordinary circumstances? and what is the condition of the Lunatics in this State, who are not in the Retreat? These are questions of great moment and claim our serious and immediate attention. Most are familiar with the fearless and extensive researches into the condition of the insane, and the able exposition of the horrible condition of their prison houses in many States of the Union, made by Miss Dix, and with the beneficial results which have attended her investigations and touching appeals; results more blessed to the best interests of this nation than the annexation of empires.

With an Institution in the State in successful operation for a quarter of a century, founded by private benefactions, excited by a wide spread and deep interest in the subject of insanity, enjoying largely public confidence and public patronage, easy of access from all sections of the State, and open to all proper observation, we should naturally expect that at this day any such instance of barbarity and neglect as Miss Dix has described, could not be found within *our* border.

The large number of old, and as it proves to be, incurable cases, brought annually to the Retreat for the first time, whose history shows that they might easily have been restored by early treatment; the many recent and curable cases, prematurely removed, that we know become speedily incurable; and the many old cases that, after a brief trial, are removed from the Retreat, in disregard of the vast improvement which has often taken place in their habits and condition, (though recovery has become impossible,) with the sad reports which occasionally reach our ears of their deplorable condition, had led me, long ago, to fear that the real condition of many of the

insane in the State was little understood. When I know of a recent case, with good prospect of recovery, removed from our wards, after a brief and insufficient trial, fettered hand and foot and chained to the floor in an alms house, a raving and hopeless maniac, leaving a young wife and a large family of young children to the heartless charity of the town, which refused to pay a moiety of his support here; when quiet, though incurable, inoffensive patients have been compelled to leave our pleasant halls and the enjoyment of many privileges here, to be chained up in out houses or in by places, "to be let out occasionally," or to enjoy such accommodation as a son told me he had provided for his father, (one of our most inoffensive patients, though reputed as dangerous elsewhere,) "a good strong cage;" when the unfortunate insane pauper "let out" for keeping, to the lowest bidder, is taken out half naked from his bed, and cruelly horse-whipped by his brutal keeper, and while this is repeated again and again, because the poor demented wretch was found guilty of habits of personal uncleanliness, brought on solely by the neglect of those who should have taught him better; when such cases occur, then we are prepared to credit such statements as have within a short time come to our knowledge, and which it is due to this most helpless class of sufferers to give to the public. One of these I will relate.

A. B. of C. was brought into the Institution in 184—. The following is the history of the case as given by the intelligent gentlemen who brought him to the Retreat. "B is 36 years of age, and has been insane 20 years. When young, he was considered in point of intellect quite equal to most boys of his age, and was fond of reading and of mathematical studies. From some unknown cause he became a violent maniac, destroying every thing in his way, and dangerous. The family became afraid of him and chained him up in a room, or pen, partitioned off from the stable in the barn. He would tear his clothes and any bed clothing provided for him, so that he would often be entirely naked the coldest nights in winter, without appearing to suffer by the exposure. His usual dress was nothing more than a coarse flannel frock, and without anything for a bed but loose straw. He remained in this state for years, when his father becoming poor, called on the town for help. The Select-

men went and found the man as described, and consulted with the father as to what should be done. Their conclusion was, that if the father had kept him in a barn, it would not be improper for the keeper of the paupers to do the same.

"Accordingly he was removed from place to place, as the paupers were changed, and kept as his father had kept him. He was generally fed as we feed swine, had nothing but his hands to feed himself with, and, as all his filth remained in his stable for many days, it was a fearful job to attempt "to clear it out" as the saying was. He was in an out building and without fire for the 12 or 15 years that he was supported by the town. He was in a sitting posture so long, that the cords of his legs contracted, so that his knees are drawn up to his breast, while his legs are drawn up close to his body. He is entirely negligent of the calls of nature."

He is now in the Retreat, demented, is always cheerful and docile, takes his meals regularly, and is cleanly in his habits and person. His lower limbs are closely contracted upon his body, and he accomplishes locomotion with a good deal of agility by placing his hands on the floor and swinging his body along.

I have given in the appendix the description of two other cases which have not come under my personal observation.

In regard to the premature removals of patients apparently curable, it should be stated, that it is sometimes done with great reluctance by friends, from utter inability to defray their proportion of the expense, beside the allowance from the State fund, which is generally $1 50 per week, or one half of the whole charge. The town authorities upon whom the patients thus become chargeable, consider that they can keep them cheaper in their Alms House, than in the Retreat,—a mistaken economy which often results in charging them with the support of an incurable maniac for life. The municipal authorities of our cities and of some of our towns, manifest a most humane and liberal spirit towards their insane poor. In some there has been for years a standing vote, directing the selectmen to send all curable cases of insanity immediately to the Retreat.

The preceding statement suggests many considerations which cannot be presented at this time. My object has been to excite public attention to this subject, and the mere recital of these

facts will, I trust, be sufficient. I suggest no remedy. An ample one for the emergency will be found when public sentiment shall be fully aroused to a due appreciation of this enormous evil, and shall demand its removal.

TABLE VI.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES.	1843–4	1844–5	1845–6	1846–7	1847–8	1848–9	Total.
Epilepsy, ...	1			1	1		3
Apoplexy, . .			1		1		2
Phthisis, ...		1	1		1	1	4
Old age, ...		1	2		1		4
Injury, ...	2						2
Fever, ...		1	1				2
Paralysis, ...				1	1		2
Disease of brain, .		1	3	2	1	1	8
Internal Hæmorrhage, .	1						1
Marasmus, . .		1	1	1	1	2	6
General Debility, . .		2	1			3	6
General Paralysis, .		1	2				3
Exhaustion, . .	1	2	3	3	3	2	14
Inflammation of Bowels,				1			1
Disease of Lungs, .	3					1	4
Disease of Heart, .				1			1
Chronic Diarrhœa, .				1			1
Erysipelas, . .				1		1	2
Suicide, ...	1	1			1	1	4
Uterine Disease, .					1		1
Total, ...	9	11	16	11	12	12	71

Per cent. of deaths of the whole number admitted since the opening of the Institution, ... 8.1

Per cent of deaths of the whole number discharged since the opening of the Institution, ... 8.7

Of the twelve cases of death which have occurred in the Retreat during the past year, one was of a patient who had been for some weeks entirely restored to reason, and whose removal was unnecessarily delayed by the friends. Death was caused by the sudden and unexpected aggravation of a chronic disease. Another was a case of acute mania in its early stage, with febrile symptoms and great exhaustion. This was one of those cases which are brought to the Retreat because, as we are told, "they will certainly die at home!" When the fatigue and excitement of removal, are added to the burden of disease, death is the almost inevitable consequence here. It should be remembered that the chances of recovery in such cases is certainly diminished by removal, while its delay of a few days or a week, in any recent case, is not dangerous. Omitting these two, the per centage of deaths per year would be only 3.9 per cent.

TABLE VII.

AGES AT TIME OF ADMISSION, AND AT THE TIME OF FIRST ATTACK.

Ages.	When admitted.			When first attacked		
	Males	Fem.	Total.	Males	Fem.	Total.
Under 15 years, ...	0	1	1	0	1	1
From 15 to 20 years, . .	2	6	8	4	10	14
" 20 to 25 " . . .	6	15	21	12	20	32
" 25 to 30 " . . .	5	8	13	6	12	18
" 30 to 35 " . . .	12	11	23	11	11	22
" 35 to 40 " . . .	8	8	16	2	6	8
" 40 to 45 " . . .	5	14	19	1	4	5
" 45 to 50 " . . .	1	8	9	0	7	7
" 50 to 60 " . . .	2	10	12	3	6	9
" 60 to 70 " . . .	6	3	9	2	1	3
" 70 to 80 " . . .	2	0	2	1	0	1
Unknown, ...				7	6	13
Total, ...	49	84	133	49	84	133

TABLE VIII.

DURATION OF DISEASE WHEN THE PATIENTS WERE ADMITTED.

Duration.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Less than one month, . .	12	22	34
From one to three months,	11	25	36
" three to six " .	4	9	13
" six to twelve " .	2	14	16
" one year to two years,	4	3	7
" two years to three "	5	1	6
" three years to five "	5	4	9
" five years to ten "	2	2	4
" ten " to twenty "	3	2	5
Unknown, ...	1	2	3
Total, ...	49	84	133

TABLE IX.

CIVIL CONDITION.

Civil Condition.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married, . . .	16	33	49
Single, ...	29	42	71
Widowed, . . .	4	9	13
Total, . . .	49	84	133

TABLE X.

TERM OF RESIDENCE IN THE RETREAT OF THOSE DISCHARGED.

	Less than 1 month.	1 to 2 Months.	2 to 3 Months.	3 to 4 Months.	4 to 6 Months.	6 to 12 Months.	1 to 2 Years.	More than 2 Years.
Recovered,								
Males, . . .	0	1	6	6	4	3	1	0
Females, . .	1	1	7	5	13	15	3	4
Total, . . .	1	2	13	11	17	18	4	4
Much Improved,								
Males, . . .	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	
Females, . .	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	
Total, . . .	0	1	2	1	2	4	1	
Improved,								
Males, . . .	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0
Females, . .	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	2
Total, . . .	0	0	1	1	2	5	2	2
Unimproved,								
Males, . . .	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	2
Females, . . .	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2
Total, . . .	1	0	2	1	2	3	3	4
Died,								
Males, . . .	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0
Females, . .	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total, . . .	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	0

TABLE XI.

NUMBER OF ATTACKS AND ADMISSIONS.

No. of Attacks.	Males.	Fem.	Total.	No. of Admissions.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
1st Attack,	26	56	82	1st Admission,	41	70	111
2d "	5	15	20	2d "	6	9	15
3d "	2	4	6	3d "	2	4	6
4th "		1	1	4th, "		1	1
Several, "	14	8	22				
Unknown,	2		2				
Total,	49	84	133	Total,	49	84	133

TABLE XII.

AGES OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED RECOVERED.

Ages.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Under 20 years.	3	3	6
From 20 to 25 years,	2	15	17
" 25 to 30 "	2	1	3
" 30 to 35 "	6	7	13
" 35 to 40 "	1	6	7
" 40 to 45 "	3	4	7
" 45 to 50 "	1	5	6
" 50 to 60 "	1	8	9
" 60 to 70 "	1	1	2
Total, ...	20	50	70

TABLE XIII.

LENGTH OF TIME THAT THE PATIENTS REMAINING APRIL 1, 1849, HAVE BEEN IN THE RETREAT.

Time.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
Not exceeding 3 months, . . .	12	17	29
From 3 to 6 months, ...	2	8	10
" 6 to 9 "	3	9	12
" 9 to 12 "	6	4	10
" 1 year to 2 years, . . .	5	4	9
" 2 " to 3 "	11	6	17
" 3 " to 4 "	6	5	11
" 4 " to 5 "	5	2	7
" 5 " to 6 "	0	2	2
" 6 " to 7 "	1	1	2
" 7 " to 8 "	3	0	3
" 8 " to 9 " . . . , .	0	0	0
" 9 " to 10 "	1	2	3
" 10 " to 12 "	1	3	4
" 12 " to 15 "	1	5	6
" 15 " to 20 "	3	2	5
" 20 " to 24 "	1	2	3
Total, ...	61	82	133

It cannot be necessary to detail as minutely as has been done in previous Reports, the system of treatment which is here pursued. The same general course of both medical and moral means is continued. Our confidence in it is not diminished, when we view either the daily aspect of our household, or the results of the year.

Occupation, exercise, and amusements of every form of which we can avail ourselves, are made appliances of treatment.

Excursions, visits to objects and places of interest in this and neighboring towns, rides, walks, games, musical, dancing and sewing parties, quiet and social gatherings, reading parties, attendance upon exhibitions and lectures in the city, and due observances of all our holy-days, are means of which we frequently avail ourselves to relieve the monotony of hospital life,

and to promote that cheerful contentment which is such a desirable aid to all strictly medical means. How far we are successful in this, those who are not of our family can form no adequate idea, without visiting our social circles and witnessing the animation and pleasantness which pervade them.

The religious services on the afternoon of the Sabbath, and the daily evening prayers, have been, as usual, regularly attended in our pleasant and convenient chapel. Our high estimation of the value and importance of these services is in no wise abated.

The beneficial influence of the services of our highly esteemed Chaplain, is also evident in his daily and more familiar visits.

During the year we have received many tokens of the kindness of our friends, which we most gratefully appreciate as evidence of their interest and regard, and for which we offer our thanks and the assurance that their gifts have not been like "water spilt upon the ground," but have largely contributed to the enjoyment and benefit of the patients.

From A. M. Collins, Esq., we have received a large and superior magic lantern, with a large assortment of beautiful and amusing slides, or pictures; a model of the human eye for familiar demonstration of that organ; and a new years gift of thirty-three volumes of books for a library in the ladies' department, with other books and prints at different times. He has ever been a most welcome visitor to our Halls, and his many acts of kindness and sympathy will be long remembered by us all.

We have also received books, prints, and periodicals, and files of newspapers, from George Brinley, Esq., Mrs. Sigourney, R. G. Talcott, Esq., E. C. Judson, Esq., and Mr. Arlow Collins. Our thanks are also due to Rev. Dr. Baird, for a highly interesting Lecture on Paris; to the "Derwort Family," and to V. C. Taylor, Esq., of this city, for concerts at the Retreat; to the liberal proprietor of Hudson's Panorama for a gratuitous exhibition to many of our patients; and to Robert Watkinson, Esq., for an excellent exercising chair.

We have also received public documents, &c., from Hon. John M. Niles, Hon. R. S. Baldwin, Hon. J. Dixon, and Hon.

S. D. Hubbard. We are glad to acknowledge the continued reception of the New Haven Palladium, Boston Olive Branch, Hartford Courant, and Daily Times.

I desire also to express my thanks for the important assistance which I have derived from those officers who have shared with me in the laborious and responsible duties of the Institution.

Devoutly grateful to Almighty God for the manifold mercies received during the year that is past, we humbly commend the Institution to his protection and guidance for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. BUTLER.

Retreat for the Insane, April 1, 1849.

REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN.

Eleven years will soon have elapsed since the commencement of my duties as Chaplain of the Retreat.

Most of these duties are of a very regular and uniform kind. I attend prayers on week-days in the Chapel, and conduct the religious exercises there on the Sabbath. I keep up a constant, daily intercourse with the patients in their respective halls, endeavoring to become familiar with their individual characters and peculiarities, and to do them good in the way of religious counsel, pleasant conversation, and other kind offices. I visit them in their rooms, especially when they are sick, and, when circumstances render it desirable, pray with them, as I do, also, the attendants and nurses when laboring under indisposition.

I attend the weekly reading and sewing parties of the female patients, the customary celebration of the anniversary of American Independence, and other occasions of entertainment and interest which bring many of the inmates of the Institution together, performing, at these times, such services as are in my power. Occasionally, I go with a party of the patients to visit the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.

In the course of the year, I render not a few attentions to the friends of the patients from abroad, who are spending some time in the city; receive visits from the patients and the friends of the patients, at my own house; convey messages from those

of them who live in Hartford to the Retreat, and from the Retreat to them; and frequently call upon them at their own residences with information to be communicated to them from the Physician.

Some correspondence devolves upon me, growing out of the relation which I sustain to the Retreat, and my friendship or acquaintance with those who have relatives or friends under its care. I am in the constant habit of learning what it is needful for me to know, in the discharge of my official duties, with regard to the condition of each patient, both when admitted and afterwards, from the Physician; while I endeavor, in all that I do, to act in accordance with his views and wishes. I will only add that, as one means of greater usefulness, part of my reading is devoted to such works on insanity, and Reports of other Institutions as, I think, will be of practical benefit to me.

Not having described, so particularly, in any preceding Report, the routine of common and peculiar services which I am thus rendering to the Retreat, it seemed to me not out of place for once, at least, to do it.

From year to year, the impression deepens upon my mind, that there is much yet to learn with regard to the physical, intellectual, and moral condition of the insane, and much yet to do in ascertaining and applying all the available means of alleviation, of comfort, and of cure. Here is yet a wide, and, to a great extent, unexplored field, in which experience, ingenuity, and Christian benevolence may find ample scope for exercise. I am sure, I can say so, from what I observe in my own appropriate department, with regard to the mental and religious condition of the insane, presenting, as it does, phenomena of the most singular, various, and complicated kinds. Striking and multifarious peculiarities, in these respects, exist among the sane. It would be strange, indeed, if they were not found to be as many, and as great, among the insane.

Each case, therefore, needs to be deliberately and patiently studied by itself, and time must be taken for doing this, that the moral and religious means employed for relief and restoration may be wisely chosen and applied. Hence, in order that the Chaplain may be a judicious and successful auxiliary of the

Physician at the head of an Institution for the insane, it is indispensable that he should have frequent and familiar intercourse with its inmates. He thus becomes the better qualified, not only to conduct the customary religious exercises, and to prepare the discourses which he delivers, in a way suited to the condition, and adapted to the benefit of the patients, but, also, to appreciate the counsels and directions of the Physician in his daily interviews with them, and to make these interviews pleasant and profitable.

It is by such intercourse, too, that the Chaplain gains the confidence and friendly regard of the patients. This opens their minds and hearts to his inspection, and procures for him a moral influence over them which would be very limited and imperfect without this intercourse. It need not, and, I think, I can say from my own experience, it does not detract from that deference and respect which are due to his sacred office. On the contrary, if this intercourse is wisely conducted, it leads them to esteem the Chaplain as their pastor and friend, one who knows them personally, and sympathizes with them individually, and thus to take a deeper interest in his public ministrations, and to be the more profited by them.

I have dwelt a little on this topic from the desire that I have to impress its importance upon those who are interested in the insane, or who are intrusted with the management of Institutions for their benefit. For, if my labors in the Retreat have been, in any degree, acceptable and useful to its inmates, or entitled to any approbation from its Directors, this has arisen pre-eminently from the opportunities which I have enjoyed of daily and familiar intercourse with the patients.

This intercourse has been kept up as usual during the past year, as have, also, the religious exercises on the Sabbath and the other days of the week, attended by the patients, the officers, and the attendants and nurses of the Institution. The same good order and devotional aspect have marked these occasions as have been described in my former Reports; while the singing has still been conducted by a choir composed of some of the patients, and of the attendants and nurses.

Grateful for that providential guidance and guardianship which the Source of all good has hitherto vouchsafed to the

Retreat in its various departments, and for the success which has attended the efforts that have been made to do good to those intrusted to its care, we are encouraged to go forward in our labors, hoping, under the divine blessing, to witness future results equally propitious and cheering.

I cannot conclude without again expressing my cordial acknowledgements to the officers, attendants, nurses, patients, and other inmates of the Institution, for the continued kindness and respect which they have shown me in the discharge of my duties.

T. H. GALLAUDET.

HARTFORD, April 1st, 1849.

APPENDIX.

The following statements have been communicated tome by highly respectable and intelligent gentlemen. I am satisfied that their descriptions do not exceed the truth—I quote from their letters.

"L, the case of lunacy in our place, is about 45 years of age. He has been a raving lunatic for about 20 years. Naturally he was an intelligent and bright young man. He had 20 years ago an attack of typhus fever, which left his digestive powers weakened and deranged, and having no proper care taken of him, he sank down by degrees into a state of insanity. Some years ago, after his insanity had become confirmed and incurable, he was taken to the Retreat; of course he could not be cured and was soon removed home. He has been confined with a chain around his ankle and fastened to the floor of his room for 15 years. His only clothing, so far as I know, is a coarse garment something like a shirt! but of what material or original color I am not able to say—it is as filthy as the filthiest thing I can imagine. In the summer time he *crawls* on his hands and knees to his port window, which is generally open, and watches the passers by, sings, mutters, laughs, swears &c. He was before his derangement a Christian, and underneath it all, I doubt not his piety still continues. His room is *filth itself.* I believe he attends to the calls of nature in any part of his room, or in his bed, wherever it happens, and I do not believe it is cleaned out with half the regularity or thoroughness with which I clean my stable. By being chained so long L. has lost the use of his feet and legs, and cannot walk or stand. When his window is open in summer, and the wind is in the right direction, the effluvia is powerful enough to take away a man's appetite in passing the house. In winter he has no fire, his room is open and cold; he seems to know enough to keep in bed all the time, and such old rags and carpets as the house can spare are piled upon him. Some time ago he had a habit of getting out of bed in cold nights, and his father, a man seventy-nine years old, who is the only one that *takes care* of him, has sometimes found him sitting in the fire place, the coldest place in his room. This is the plain unvarnished story.

"In the name of humanity why is this neglect suffered? For the life of me, after making all enquiries for years I cannot understand it. I have done all I can do and my conscience is clear, though my heart still aches.

"When we made an effort some months ago to have him sent to the Retreat I thought we should succeed. I was amazed and almost vexed to

find that his father would not consent to have him go because L. said he did'nt want to and would'nt. His father is poor and has lived so long in such a state, that I believe that he has lost all sense of the lamentable state of things in his house. Why dont the town do something? Heaven only knows! If any body can be shamed, or coaxed, or driven to do something for this case I should rejoice. L. is sometimes quite bright. A man passing his house one day, enquired of him as he hung on the window sill which road he should take to H———. 'Just which you please' said L."

Another writes, "Mr. T. has been insane about 5 years—he is 45 years of age. For the last 6 years he has been confined in a house built on purpose for him. It has only one room—its dimensions are about six by eight feet and not over seven feet high, it is made tight, has no window or any place for a fire; there is no furniture save a large straw bed which covers nearly the whole floor, which through his neglect is wet and filthy. One ankle of the maniac is chained to an iron staple and ring. The room is so small that he is obliged to keep the door open most of the time to prevent suffocation. When I was there the filth was lying in heaps around the floor, and the air was horribly offensive. The rats were running about, eating the potatoe skins in the corner. His room is cleaned out every two or three days, it is said; but once in two or three years the neighbors rally, burn up the bed, thoroughly cleanse the room, and let the prisoner have the free air to breathe. There is property enough to support him; but it is being wasted by bad management, and probably the insane man will come upon the town for support before long; under these circumstances the citizens are afraid to do any thing in the case for fear the town will be saddled with the expense!

"He evinces no little shrewdness by his apt observations. He is familiar with the Scriptures, and quotes from them readily. He says he has read the Bible through once, 'since he has been in the chain.' Speaking about a future state he said, some people make a great distinction between Heaven and Hell, but for my part I do'nt see much to choose, for we read in Scripture that whatsoever is bound on earth is bound in heaven.

"When asked if he would like to change his condition, he answered—'not for a worse one—we read in Scripture that there is a time for all things under the sun,' but there are some things for which there ought never to be any time for'—alluding to his own condition."

These cases have not been sought out, they have come incidentally to my knowledge. I would gladly believe that there are none other like them in our State.

TERMS OF ADMISSION TO THE RETREAT.

For patients belonging to this State, with the usual accommodations, . . . $3.00 per week.

For those belonging to other States, . . $3.50 per week.

If extra accommodations and attendance are desired, they will be furnished at an additional charge.

For patients belonging to this State, with accommodations in the centre building, and a separate attendant, . . . $10.00 per week.

For those belonging to other States, . $12.00 per week.

No patient to be admitted for a shorter term than three months, and payment for that term to be made in advance.

For the admission of patients, apply to either of the Managers, or to the Superintendent.

NOTE.—Should any individual residing within the State, who may receive this Report, know of any insane person in his neighborhood or town, he may have it in his power to do an act of great kindness, by taking an interest in the case, and giving the friends of the sufferer such counsel and information as the circumstances require. Prompt attention to such cases, furnishes the principal, and often the only hope of restoration. Sometimes, the friends of the insane seem to be at a loss what to do. Where there is need of aid from the State, in order to send the insane person to the Retreat, application should be made to the Governor, with satisfactory certificates of this need, and of the insanity of the individual.